



United States Department of the Interior

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Albuquerque District Office

P. O. Box 69

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

FEB 4 1982

FILE COPY
Surname

Memorandum

To: Mine Plan File, Anaconda Comprehensive Mine Plan
From: District Mining Supervisor, Albuquerque District
Subject: Anaconda Copper Company's Jackpile-Paguate Mine,
Pueblo of Laguna Uranium Leases 1, 4 and 8

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: SC

Date: 6/25/13

January 27, 1982, I attended a meeting between the Pueblo of Laguna, Anaconda Copper Company, Atlantic Richfield Company, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Minerals Management Service. A list of the participants is attached. The meeting was called by the Minerals Management Service's Jackpile-Paguate EIS Task Force Leader to discuss several issues related to closure of the subject mine (see attached memorandum of agenda).

Anaconda stated that its reclamation plan would be submitted no later than March 31, 1982, and that the current target date is March 1. Anaconda also stated that all of the questions asked about the original reclamation plan were being addressed in the new plan and that hopefully the responses would be sufficient.

The discussion of the disposition of mining equipment and permanent improvements quickly reverted to a heated debate on the legal technicalities of lease termination. Anaconda stated that it would rather remove all permanent structures and that it needed an agreement for certain post-lease rights by March 1 or it would have to force the issue on removal of permanent structures. Contrary to the Pueblo of Laguna's understanding at a January 18 meeting, Anaconda will only consider an opinion on lease termination by the Department of Interior Solicitor. If Anaconda does not agree with this opinion, it will not abide by it. After about one hour of debate, all participants caucused on the post-lease agreement for one hour.

The meeting resumed after the one-hour caucus, and the Pueblo of Laguna proposed a revised post-lease agreement. Anaconda objected to and refused the proposal because it believed that the revisions changed the intent of the agreement originally proposed. After additional heated debate, Anaconda and the Pueblo agreed to certain changes in the agreement (copy attached), and both parties accepted the agreement. The agreement will be presented to the Laguna Pueblo Council for adoption February 1. During discussion, Anaconda agreed with the Minerals Management Service that Lease 8 would remain in effect through its primary term despite the cessation of mining operations.



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There was a discussion of the railroad spur right-of-way. Anaconda believes it can remove any and all of the railroad spur (track, ties and ballast) that is not on the mining leases. However, the post-lease agreement covers removal of the railroad spur both on and off the leases, and Anaconda will not remove any of the railroad spur if the agreement is finalized.

Via previous meetings, the involved parties had agreed to a compromise on the relocation of State Highway 279 through the middle of the Jackpile-Paguate Mine. This compromise provided for leaving a 300-yard section of the reroute unfinished to allow passage of reclamation equipment from one side of the Mine to the other. At this meeting, all participants agreed that this compromise was still acceptable. The Minerals Management Service urged the Pueblo of Laguna and Bureau of Indian Affairs to initiate immediate action on a right-of-way for the reroute because certain time-consuming actions must be taken to allow the relocation prior to completion of the EIS. Funding for the relocation will be withdrawn if the State Highway Department does not begin construction in October 1982. The Pueblo and Bureau agreed to proceed immediately.

Discussion of the temporary abandonment requirements for the mining leases centered on removal of mining equipment. Anaconda is concerned that the equipment will deteriorate if left on the leases and would like to remove all equipment after posting a bond to cover its costs. The Minerals Management Service agreed to consider such a bond.


Dale C. Jones

Enclosures (3)

cc: DMM-Mining, SCR
EIS Task Force Leader, MMS
Lease Correspondence Files: Anaconda Laguna 1, 4 and 8
Chrono, Albuquerque Dist.

DCJones:cj: 02-03-82
Feb 4 1982 Rec'd from Carlsbad